



California Regional Water Quality Control Board

Los Angeles Region



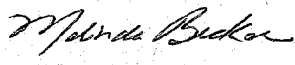
Recipient of the 2001 *Environmental Leadership Award* from Keep California Beautiful

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Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

To: Interested Persons

From: Melinda Becker 
Acting Chief, Regional Programs
California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region

Date: March 28, 2005

Subject: Notice of Public Hearings for proposed amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* to incorporate Total Maximum Daily Loads to Reduce Metals in the Los Angeles River and Tributaries and in Ballona Creek

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) will conduct public hearings to consider two proposed amendments to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Region* (Basin Plan) to incorporate Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) to reduce metals in the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and in Ballona Creek. The Regional Board will consider the two TMDLs independently. Additional regulations or policies, consistent with the general purpose of the proposed amendments and complementary to the proposals may be developed at the hearing as a logical outgrowth of discussions. The proposed metals TMDLs for the Los Angeles River and Ballona Creek were originally noticed on July 12, 2004. Regional Board staff have revised the proposed resolutions incorporating the TMDLs, Basin Plan amendments, staff reports, and CEQA checklists based on written comments provided on the July 12, 2004 draft and oral comments provided at a previous workshop held on September 2, 2004.

The Regional Board will act on the proposed amendments after hearing staff's presentation and public comments. Copies of the proposed resolutions, Basin Plan amendments, staff reports, CEQA checklists and Notices of Filing can be obtained from the Regional Board website at www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb4 (select "Total Maximum Daily Loads/TMDLs" under the "Updates and News" tab). Please contact Jenny Newman at (213) 576-6808 for additional information regarding the Los Angeles River TMDL or Rebecca Christmann at (213) 576-6757 for additional information regarding the Ballona Creek TMDL.

**Public Hearings will be held on June 2, 2005
at 9:00 a.m. at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles, California**

The Regional Board is only soliciting comments on the revisions to the tentative resolutions, proposed Basin Plan amendments and supporting documents that were made since the September 2, 2004 public hearings. Written comments and exhibits must be submitted to the Regional Board no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2005. Failure to comply with these requirements is grounds for the Board to refuse to admit the proposed written comment or exhibit into evidence (California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Section 649.4). Comments should be submitted to:

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California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Los Angeles Region
320 West Fourth Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, California 90013

ATTN: Melinda Becker

All exhibits including charts, graphs and other testimony presented at the public hearing must be left with the Regional Board for inclusion in the Administrative Record. Please note that the Regional Board may impose time limits on oral testimony at the public hearing.

Background

The proposed amendments would incorporate into the Basin Plan two TMDLs to (1) reduce metals in the Los Angeles River and its tributaries and (2) reduce metals in Ballona Creek. The Regional Board's goal in incorporating the TMDLs is to protect the aquatic life and wildlife beneficial uses of these two water bodies and to achieve water quality objectives set to protect these beneficial uses as contained in the California Toxics Rule.

On July 12, 2004, the draft TMDLs were released for public comment. Notice was provided of hearings for the proposed TMDLs at the September 2, 2004 regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Board continued action on the TMDLs until a future meeting and instead conducted the hearings as workshops to receive testimony and facilitate Board discussion. Continuing the items give staff time to revise the TMDLs based on public comments, renotice the TMDLs, and receive additional comments on the proposed revisions prior to Board action.

Among the proposed revisions to both TMDLs is the assignment of load allocations to nonpoint sources in wet and dry weather. In addition, wet-weather loading capacities are clarified and expressed as equations rather than as load duration curves. Waste load allocations for storm water have been divided among the MS4, Caltrans, and general permittees based on their percent area of the watershed. The implementation schedule has been revised to allow additional time for compliance by the MS4 and Caltrans permittees. Finally, the implementation schedule has been revised to allow interim waste load allocations for the industrial and construction storm water permittees and to clarify that waste load allocations for storm water permittees may be implemented through best management practices.

Among the additional proposed revisions to the Los Angeles River TMDL is a clarification of which reaches receive TMDLs and which reaches receive allocations to meet downstream TMDLs. In addition, dry-weather waste load allocations for cadmium and zinc were removed because impairments could only be confirmed during wet weather. Finally, the dry-weather critical flow has been recalculated to include the combined maximum design flow of the three largest publicly owned treatment works.

Among the additional proposed revisions to the Ballona Creek Metals TMDL is the removal of all TMDLs in Centinela Creek and the Estuary and the removal of cadmium and silver TMDLs in all reaches and tributaries.

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